

# The Declaration of the Lords , Gentlemen , Citizens, Freeholders, and Yeomen of this once happy Kingdome of ENGLAND .

**S**ince it hath pleased Almighty God to suffer the Spirit of Diviſion to continue in this diſtracted Nation, and to leave us without any ſetled foundation of Religion, Liberty, or Property, the Legislative power uſurped and contemned at pleaſure, the Armies raiſed at firſt for our Defence, abuſed and miſſed into unwarrantable Actions, by the Cunning and Ambition of ſome of their ſuperiour Officers; no face of Government appearing either in any ſingle Perſon, or Body of Men in Counſel lawfully conſtituted, to whom the grievances of the People may with any probability of ſucceſs be properly ad-dreſſed.

We being conſcious of our Duty, and ſenſible of our own, and the Nations Ruine, if theſe Diſtractions continue, or reſolve into a more ſixt Oppreſſion, by ſome corrupt ſettlement, inconfiſtant with the Laws, Peace, and Intereſt of the Nation, have taken Arms, in defence of our ſelves, and all others, who will partake with us in the Vindication and maintenance of the Freedom of Parliaments, againſt all violence whatſoever of the known Laws, Liberty, and Property of the Good People of this Nation, who at preſent groan under Illegal, Arbitrary and Inſupportable Taxes and payments, unknown to our An-ceſtors.

This being our Duty to God and Man, and our onely Deſigne, we cannot deſpair of the Bleſſing of him that gives Victory, nor of the cheerfull concurrence of all good men, nor of the undeceived part of the Army, whoſe Arrears, increaſe of future pay, and advancement to higher Commands, we ſhall by all means procure; ſuffering no impoſition or force on any mans Conſcience. To this we doubt not but all honeſt Engliſh-men will ſay A M E N.

## A Letter from Sir George Booth to a Friend of his ; ſhewing the Reasons of his preſent Engagement in De- fence of his Countries Liberties, &c.

**SIR,**  
**I** Think my ſelf, and the Gentlemen and others you know to be now engaged with me, have no hopes by new Troubles to better our preſent condition; with thankfulneſs we may ſay it, God hath made our Lot larger than our Deſires in that kinde; and we ſuppoſe by that bleſſing, put an obligation upon us, as we are conſiderable Members of our Countrey, to have more ſober and couragious thoughts in time of extremity than other men have: And though the Indifference that lies upon other mens ſpirits might flat ours, yet we cannot think, but if it were repreſented to them, how the preſent Power doth oblige us to put out our *right Eyes*, when they require us to acknowledge them as a *Parliament*, and lay upon us ſuch heavy and grievous Burthens, and ſuch deceitfull ones, as a Years Tax in Three Moneths, beſides the many other Impoſitions of Excife, &c. And by raiſing among us a *Militia*, they cut off our *right Hand*, by ſubjecting us under the meaneſt and moſt fanatick Spirits of the Nation, under pretence of Protection: their ſpirits would be warmed into the ſame zeal and indignation that ours are kindled with. Now conſider what it is we ask, and conſider whether it be not the ſame thing we have aſſerted with our Lives and Fortunes? *A Free Parliament*: And what a ſlavery it is to our Underſtandings, that theſe men that now call themſelves a *Parliament*, ſhould declare it an act of Illegality and Violence in the late aſpiring General *Cromwell*, to diſſolve their Body in 1653. and not make it the like in the garbling the whole Body of Parliament from 400. to 40, in 1648. What is this, but to act what they condemn in others? Why do they aſſociate themſelves to the preſent Army, or indeed to the preſent Commanders in chief, and keep out their numerous and fellow-Members, if committing Violence on a Parliament be ſo notorious a crime? And how do they teach the Souldiers boldly to do that, which themſelves praſtiſe, and make them Inſtruments of? What is this, but under another ſhape to act the condemned acts of Uſurpation and Tyranny in their old General? What is this, but to neceſſitate men to complain? and upon Complaints, to be invaded by their power, ſo to raiſe (if the *Engliſh* Spirits be not diſſolved into baſeneſs and aptitude for Slavery) a Civil War, and to endeavour to water their own root with the blood of many thouſands of their Countrey-men; or to gape after thoſe Confiſcations, which by a Victory, upon preſumption of the unity of their Army, they hope to gain over all thoſe that dare with danger aſſert their Liberties, (which preſumption yet may fail them; for the Souldier hath, and may declare himſelf, no *Mercenary* but an *Engliſh* Freeman; which indeed, though it be now contrary to his actions, may return into his thoughts again:) And what will be the iſſue of all this? A mean and Schiſ-matical party muſt depreſſe the Nobility and Underſtanding Commons; the Land muſt waſte it ſelf, and Forainers, or others, muſt take the advantage of all. I dare ſay, I profeſs for my ſelf, and the greateſt part with me, we have no aſpect but this ſingly, that we be not poſſeſt, as Waſte Ground is, onely by the title of Occupancy, or that the next that gets into the Saddle ride us. Let the Nation freely chooſe their Representatives, and they as freely ſit without awe or force of Souldiery: and whatever in ſuch an Aſſembly is determined, ſhall be by us freely and cheerfully ſub-mitted unto. If this ſatiſfie you, I am glad of it, for you are my noble Friend. I uſe it not as an Artifice either to engage you, or to make other Countries follow our Example. Which if they doe not, let their poſterity judge their actions and ours: For we were born for our *Countrey*; and our Countrey, our Religion and Laws are in danger, and we will not be unconcerned: But we are faithful and peaceful in the Land, and if they in Authority will decline hoſtility, and agree of a means to admit the old Members of both Houſes, or to call a new Free Parliament; Let him be (and he onely is truly) a Traitor, that reſolves not his Judgement and Obedience into their Determinations. I am

(SIR)

Your humble Servant

Cheſter Auguſt 2. 1659.

GEORGE BOOTH.